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EXCALIBUR

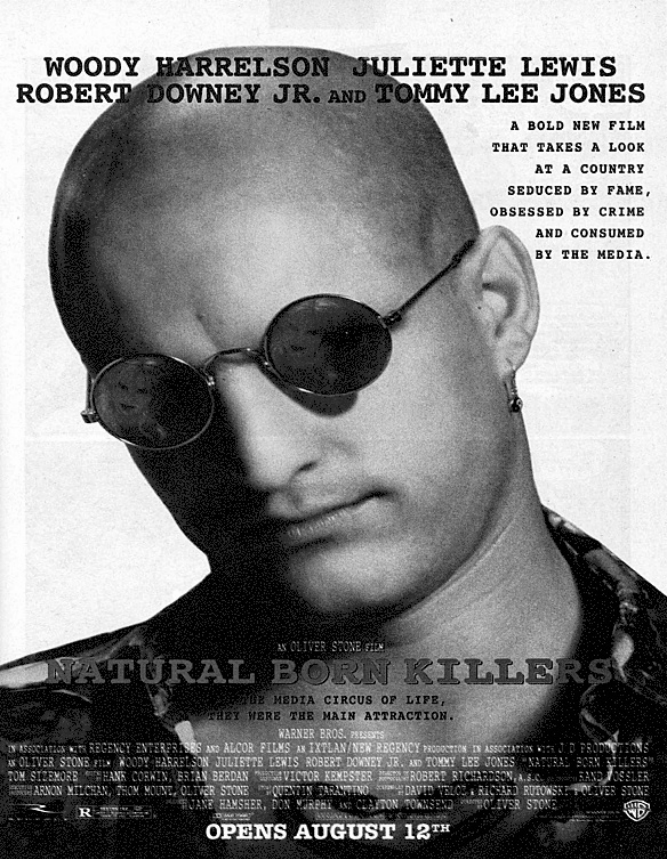
THREE
TITANIC
TALES

Featuring
THE X-MEN
and
PSYLOCKE!

DIRECT EDITION



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**WOODY HARRELSON JULIETTE LEWIS
ROBERT DOWNEY JR. AND TOMMY LEE JONES**

**A BOLD NEW FILM
THAT TAKES A LOOK
AT A COUNTRY
SEDUCED BY FAME,
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AND CONSUMED
BY THE MEDIA.**

AN OLIVER STONE FILM

NATURAL BORN KILLERS

**THE MEDIA CIRCUS OF LIFE,
THEY WERE THE MAIN ATTRACTION.**

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EXCALIBUR

ANNUAL 2 ■ 1994



THE INTERPRETATION OF DREAMS...PG. 2

RICHARD ASHFORD—writer
JOHN ROYLE—penciler
PHIL MOY
BILL ANDERSON
W.C. CARANI—inkers
JANICE CHIANG—letterer
ARIANE—colorist

BLACK QUEEN RISING.....PG. 30

ERIC FEIN—writer
DAERICK GROSS—penciler
BOB WIAK
TERRY AUSTIN
BILL ANDERSON
ANDREW PEPOY—inkers
JANICE CHIANG—letterer
MONICA BENNETT—colorist

A CHANGE OF WORLDS.....PG. 47

KIM YALE—writer
HANNIBAL KING
YANCY LABAT—pencilers
JASON MINOR
KEITH CHAMPAGNE
W. C. CARANI—inkers
DAVE SHARPE—letterer
CHRIS MATTHYS—colorist
JAYE GARDNER—plot assist

PINUP GALLERY

AHAB.....PG. 61
LARRY STROMAN.....artist
MARIE JAVINS.....colorist

Nightcrawler.....PG. 62
LARRY STROMAN.....artist
PAUL BECTON.....colorist

MUIR ISLAND
UNDERGROUND.....PG. 63
NEIL MCCLUTY—artist
JOE ROSAS—colorist

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THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN...

...2040.

NEVER HAS SO
MUCH BEEN
DOING TO SO FEW.

BRITAIN
THE BATTLING
BRITAIN

...IS THE ONLY PERSON
STANDING BETWEEN
THE INVADING ARMIES!

HE HAS FOUGHT
THE GOOD FIGHT TO
THE VALIANT END.

THE INTERPRETATION OF
DREAMS

**SPECIAL
EDITION**

THE MUTANT ENQUIRER

The Daily Mutant Bulletin

**SPECIAL
EDITION****EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA!**

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THE ARYANITES
WAS BEING
SINCE DAWN...

THREE
MONTHS
AGO.

THIS IS HIS
BANKET
FIGHT.

THE BRITISH LION
BEARDED AT
NATIONAL GATE.



HE HAS SEEN
ALL HIS
COMRADES
FALL TO THIS
ONSLAUGHT!



HE WILL SOON
BE JOINING
THEM...
GOD SAVE
BRITAIN!



THE VICTOR BECOMES
THE VANQUISHED!

SSSSAAACCC



DOWNED
BUT NEVER
DEFEAT!

--EVEN IN
THE RACE OF
MINUTES
TO DEATH!



HE STEELS
HIMSELF FOR
THE SEARING PAIN
THAT WILL STRIP
AWAY HIS SKIN, LAY
BARE HIS BODY
TO THE BONE.



BUT DO HIS EYES
BETRAY HIM?
SHOCK, HORROR--



--HOPE?



THE EAGLE, IN THE FORM
OF THE
JAMIE BRADDOCK, HAS
DEFIANTLY LANDED.

HE TEARS
INTO THE TWO
COMMANDERS
LIKE A HURICANE.

BUT BECAUSE
OF THEIR DAST
BRIAN WONTERS...

WILL HE
BE NEXT?



THIS IS NOT A ONE-MAN WAS, BRIAN! YOU NEED A HAND.



PUT IT THERE, BROTHER.

BROTHER...?

I KNOW YOU TOLD ME TO GO BACK IN TO THE GAGE COMMANDERS MADE THEIR PLAY.



BUT IT WAS TOO MANY, SEEING YOU AGAIN TO JOIN YOU THE BRADDOCK BROTHERS-- SIDE AGAIN.



JAMIS...IS THAT REALLY YOU?



MUR TELAND... NOW.

HOME BASE OF EXCALIBUR AND EIGHT OF A STRAINED BRADDOCK REUNION.

FB BRIAN BRADDOCK, FORMERLY CAPTAIN BRITAIN, AND NOW MORE COMBINEDLY KNOWN AS BRITANNIC...

...REMOVED THE VIRTUAL REALITY HELMET!

IN THE OLD DAYS I WOULD HAVE JUST TOLD YOU ABOUT MY CREWS, BETSY.

NOW, COURTESY OF A PROTECTOR ROOM, YOU CAN SEE THEM FOR YOURSELF.

THAT'S ONE ACTIVE MIND YOU HAVE.

BUT WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT A DREAM WHERE JAMIS IS TRYING TO SAVE YOUR HIDE-- NOT SKIN IT?

BETSY-- I DON'T THINK THIS WAS JUST A DREAM.

I'VE BEEN HAVING FLASHBACKS FROM MY TRAVELS THROUGH THE TIMESTREAM.

--I BELIEVE I HAVE SEEN ANOTHER PART OF THE FUTURE...

AND IF THE FUTURE WORLD IS TO SURVIVE-- JAMIS MUST BE AT MY SIDE.

BRIAN, HIS BROTHER JAMIE, AND THEIR SISTER BEVEY, THE NEW YORK-BORN X-MAN KNOWN AS PSYLOCKE...

BROUGHT TOGETHER AFTER PSYLOCKE RECEIVED A TELEPATHIC BLAST FROM ACROSS THE OCEAN.

WHEN I HEARD THAT PSYCHIC CRY OF DESPAIR...

I THOUGHT IT WAS BEVEY. NOW, I AM NOT SO SURE.

IT WAS DEFINITELY FAMILIAR, AND I REMEMBER MY BROTHER, JAMIE, IS COMING OUT OF HIS COMA--

YOUR PRESENCE IS PLEASING, BUT I AM NOT IN NEED OF HELP.

IT IS JAMIE WE MUST AID.

IF WE CAN REACH THAT CORE OF GOODNESS IN HIS HEART, THE CHILD WITHIN...

THEN MAYBE WE CAN TURN JAMIE FROM THE PATH OF EVIL...

TEACH HIM TO CONTROL HIS POWERS AND USE THEM RESPONSIBLY... HELP HIM FULFILL HIS DESTINY.

I ONLY HOPE WE CAN TRUST HIM.

HOW LONG HAS SHE HATED HER BROTHER?

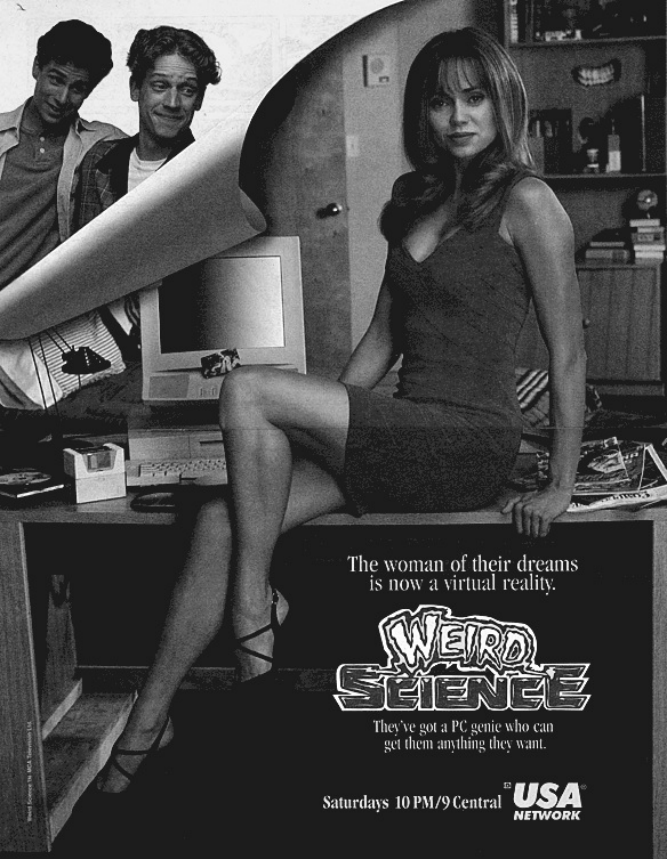
HE IS PART OF MY FUTURE LIE AN IRREVOCABLE THREAT IN THE TAPETASTY OF TIME. WE MUST HELP HIM NOW.

THE FUTURE HAS BEEN FULFILLED.

HOW DO WE KNOW THAT HE IS NOT BE MANIPULATING OUR MINDS?

THAT YOUR "VISION" FROM THE FUTURE IS NO MORE THAN A JAMIE-FULGLED ILLUSION!

WE CAN'T BE SURE, BUT IT IS A RISK WE MUST TAKE!

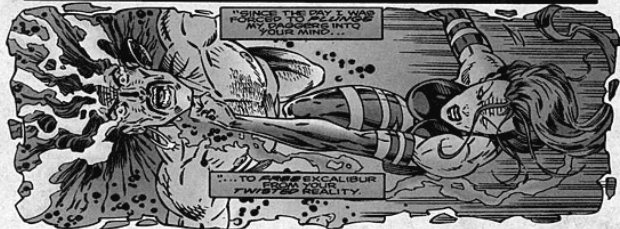


The woman of their dreams
is now a virtual reality.

WEIRD SCIENCE

They've got a PC genie who can
get them anything they want.

Saturdays 10 PM/9 Central **USA**
NETWORK



"IN THAT MINUTE YOU OPENED
UP YOUR WHOLE WORLD TO ME

"I LIVED
YOUR LIFE--

"--THE HIGH LIFE!
THE BEST OF
EVERYTHING.

"ANYTHING FOR THE
THRILL OF WINNING--

"--EVEN THOUGH IT MEANT
DOUBLE-CROSSING
THE LOCAL MAGGIA WHO HAD
PAID YOU A FORTUNE TO
LOSE THE RACE.

"YOU TOOK
THEIR MONEY, PLUS
YOUR WINNINGS...
AND A LITTLE
SIDE BET YOU
PLACED ON
YOURSELF.

"NOT THAT
THE MONEY
LASTED LONG

"FROM ONE 'GAM'
SPOT TO ANOTHER.

"NO JOB TOO
DANGEROUS

"NO RISK
TOO GREAT.

"NO MORALS
TO CONSIDER.

"SOON YOU WERE
LIVING IN
HUMAN LIVES...

"NOTHING
EVER DID.

"ROBBING
RED CROSS
SUPPLIES...

"USING HUMAN
LIVES AS
STEPPING
STONES."

STARE INTO THE DARKNESS.

THE SHADOW MASTER™ HAS ARRIVED. ALONG WITH HIS MINIONS. NINE OF THE VILEST, CRUELEST CHARACTERS EVER TO INHABIT A FIGHTING GAME. AND YOU'VE GOT TO GET THROUGH THEM, TO GET TO HIM.

THE DOUBLE DRAGONS ARE ON YOUR SIDE. AND YOU CAN GO HEAD-TO-HEAD, FIGHT TOURNAMENT STYLE, OR BRAVE THE QUEST MODE.

CLAW, SCRAPE AND BLAST YOUR WAY TO THE SHADOW MASTER. THEN, STARE INTO THE DARKNESS.



TRADEWEST



Bones

Countdown

Blade

Sickie

Icepick

Trigger Happy

Sekka

Jawbreaker

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IN STORES EVERYWHERE.

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PSYLOCKE REALIZED
AT THAT MOMENT THAT
SHE DIDN'T HATE
HER BROTHER--

ONLY WHAT HE'D
BECOME--

--WHAT JAMIE
BELIEVED HIS
BROTHER AND
SISTER HAD
BECOME--

I'M SORRY
I WALKED OUT
EARLIER, BETSY.
I THINK THE
STRAIN OF JUNK
IS TAKING ITS
TOLL.

IT'S
TIME WE
BEGAN. WE
BOTH KNOW
THIS IS OUR
ONLY HOPE
OF RECLAIM-
ING OUR
BROTHER.



I AM NOT
EVEN SURE I
CAN PULL THIS OFF.
BRIAN-- I'M NO
BRAIN SURGEON.
I HAVE NEVER USED
MY PSYCHIC BLADES
TO TRIGGER
PRECISE
MEMORIES.

YOU SAY THAT
YOUR POWERS
WILL GUIDE US, BUT
DO YOU REALIZE HOW
DANGEROUS
GOING TO BE-- AND
NOT JUST
FOR JAMIE?

"DO YOU REMEMBER THE
TIME HE STEPPED OUT OF
LINE ONE TOO MANY TIMES--"

"--AND WAS TAKEN DOWN
BY JOSHUA N'DINGI.
THE DOGS WERE CATCHING
UP WITH HIM."

"AND YOU KNOW WHAT
THE ANSWER IS, BRIAN?
JAMIE BLAMES US."

"WHERE
WERE WE?"

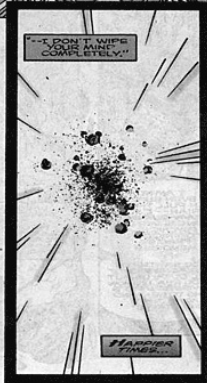
"HE WAS ON
A DREAMWALK
TO ASK-- AND WE
DIDN'T STOP TO
SAVE HIM."



"IN HIS MIND
I SAW HOW I
FAILED TO LOVE
HIM ENOUGH.
HOW WE FAILED
TO SAVE HIM."

"YOU WERE FORCED
TO SEND HIM
TO AFRICA, TO
ENDLESS TORTURE AT
THE HANDS OF
JOSHUA N'DINGI,
DR. CROC...."

"...WHICH TRIGGERED
JAMIE'S LATENT
POWER
THE ABILITY TO
MANIPULATE AND
CONTROL THE MATTER
AND ENERGY THAT
UNDERLIES REALITY."



AND DREAMS OF
CHILDHOOD--A TIME
SO SHORT.

SET SOME CHILD DREN
WOULD WISH IT WAS
SHORTER STILL.

FOR THE LUCKY ONES --
NO RESPONSIBILITIES, NO CARES,
NO WORRIES.

FOR OTHERS LIKE THIS ONE,
THE OLDEST OF THREE, AT
THE HEAD OF A YOUNGER
BROTHER AND SISTER,
BROUDED WITH TOO MUCH
RESPONSIBILITY TOO SOON--
IT IS ANYTHING BUT A CARE-
FREE TIME.

GIVE ME
BACK MY TOGO
OR I'LL TELL
NANNY!

PLEASE,
JAMIE, IT'S HER
FAVORITE.

NO WAY!
WE'RE
PLAYING BY
MY RULES
NOW, OR
FOO RABBIT
GOES FOR
A SWIM.

MOM AND
DAD SAID THAT
I HAVE TO LOOK
AFTER YOU, IT
GOES IN, NEAN
I WANT TO!

WE'RE
GOING TO PLAY
THE CIVIL WAR, I'M
THE CAVALIER AND
YOU TWO ARE
ROUNDHEADS.

YOU HAVE
TO TRY AND
CAPTURE
ME.

I KNOW A PLACE
WHERE HELL NEVER
FIND US, WE WON'T HAVE
TO PLAY HIS
WAR GAME.

COME ON, SIS,
HE'LL BE PRETTY
MAD, BECAUSE
HE TURNS AROUND
AGAIN!

I DON'T WANT
TO GO BACK
EVER! HE'S SO
BAGAN,
HE LIKES TO BE
GREAT FUN,
NOT ANYMORE...

I THINK
IT'S BECAUSE
YOU'RE A GIRL.
JAMIE SAYS
GIRLS ARE
BAGGED.

HE HATES
ALL GIRLS!

NO, NO, I DON'T
HATE IT! HE
DOESN'T HATE ME...
DOES HE?

AND WITH A TWIST
OF REALITY ON THE
ASTRAL PLANE JAMIE
TAKES CONTROL...

WHA... WERE WE
GETTING TOO
CLOSE, JAMIE?

TRYING
TO *WIDE*
FROM ME
BUT YOU'RE
NOT GOING TO
GET AWAY
FROM ME
THIS TIME!

COME AND PLAY
MY GAMES. WE NEVER
FINISHED WHAT'S
THE PLAN. ARE
YOU AFRAID
OF ME?

I DON'T WANT
TO *WIDE* YOU
JAMIE! THIS ISN'T
GOING TO HELP
ANY OF US.

I'M KEEPING ON
THE DEFENSIVE BUT
THIS ISN'T WORKING AS
WE'D PLANNED. HE'S
FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE
AS IF WE WERE TRYING
TO KILL HIM INSTEAD
OF *WIDE* HIM.

I THOUGHT
IF WE COULD
BREAK THROUGH
TO JAMIE'S
MEMORIES WE
COULD BRING
OUT THE BEST
SIDE OF JAMIE--
GO BACK TO A
TIME
BEFORE WE
LOST HIM TO
HIS DARKER
SIDE.

BUT HE
WON'T *WIDE*
US! HE'S TRYING
TO BRING *WIDE*
INTO HIS INSANE
WORLD?

ART BY
JIMMY
KIMBLE

"NO MATTER HOW
HE'D GET MAD AT
US FOR ALWAYS
SNEAKING OFF,
WE ALWAYS LOOKED
UP TO HIM. HE
WAS OUR BIG
BROTHER AND WE
LOVED HIM."

"AS WE GOT OLD-
ER, BRIAN AND I
WERE ALWAYS
CLOSER THAN
JAMIE-- HE WAS
ALWAYS AWAY
AT ONE
BOARDING
SCHOOL OR
ANOTHER."

"CAN WE REALLY
REPAIR
THE DAMAGE OF
LIVING
OF NEGLECT?"

"WE DRIFTED
APART WHEN OUR
FATHER DIED.
THERE WAS NO
REAL NEED TO
SEE EACH OTHER.
BRIAN AND I KEPT
IN CONTACT,
BUT JAMIE..."

"THE ONLY *NEWS*
WE HAD OF HIM WAS
WHAT WE READ IN
THE PAPERS."

THE *FIRST CUT*
IS THE *DEEPEST*!
BETSY DEAR.



MAYBE IF I
USED MY PSYCHIC
KNIFE AGAIN, I CAN
GET HIM TO RETURN
TO JAMIE--
THE BOY...

HE IS FIGHTING
US ON ALL LEVELS,
PHYSICAL AS WELL
AS PSYCHIC. WHAT
DID THAT
MOMENT
TRIGGER TO
PROTECT
HIM SO?



WHAT IF I
WERE TO
SABOTAGE
YOU
TO BITS?



AAARGH!!
THE PAIN

LINKED
AS WE ARE
THROUGH
THE PROTEUS
ROOM AND
THROUGH OUR
TELEPATHIC
LINK--

--I FEEL AS IF
MY BODY IS
BEING *WRECKED*
WITH *BRASS*
WIRES. I'VE GOT
TO DO SOMETHING--
NOW!

THEN THE LONG HOURS OF MINING TAKE HOLD THE MANY BATTER AND THE MANY BATTER SWEETENED HER TO PUSH THE PAIN TO THE BACK OF THE MINE.

THE FIGHTER IN AN OPENING.

POSED TO STRIKE...

YOU WERE NEVER THE FIGHTER IN THE FAMILY, JAMIE. YOU ALWAYS WANTED THINGS TOO EASILY.

I THINK I CAN TAKE MORE THAN YOU CAN GIVE AND GIVE MORE THAN YOU WANT.

IT'S NOT FAIR. I SHOULD BE STRONGER THAN YOU.

HELP ME... BETSY... I THINK I'VE GONE MAD?

LIFE SISTER WON'T LET ME PLAY IN THIS WORLD. PERHAPS IT'S TIME TO LEAVE.

"FOREVER."

HAH! AND YOU'RE MAD TO HELP!

EVER SINCE HE GOT BACK
FROM THE FUTURE,
BRIAN BRADDOCK HAD NOT
BEEN THE SAME MAN.

LIKE A CRUSAADING KNIGHT
FROM THE PAST, HE WAS
DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO
THE MOST NOBLE OF
PURSUITS: SAVING
THE FUTURE.

TO DO THIS,
HE HAD
ADOPTED
THE ROLE OF
BRITANNIC.

BUT STILL,
THE ARCADE
FIRST A MAN,
A PLEASURE
IN A BOY.

AS OF YET, HE
HAD REMAINED
UNDEFEATED ON
THIS PSYCHIC
BATTLE.

THAT
WIFE
WON'T
FIND ME
HERE!

I WAS MUCH
BETTER OFF
BEFORE I HAD
ALL THOSE
POWERS THAT
GOT ME INTO
TROUBLE.

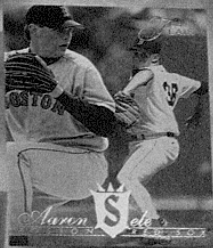
NO ONE AROUND...
PLAIN SAILING...
A CLEAN GETAWAY.

WHOOO!

HEY,
WHEN DID
YOU GET
SO BIG?



I NVEST IN THE BEST.



AN INVESTMENT-QUALITY COLLECTION OF BLUE-CHIP PLAYERS. They're double-thick. Polyester laminated. They feel more substantial. And they look it, too. With two blended photos on the front, a close-up full-bleed photo on the back, lots of gold foil on both sides and vibrant "hi-fi" color printing featuring 250 recognized stars, starters and high-profile rookies. **THREE COLLECTIBLE 10-CARD INSERT SETS.** Each with its own breakthrough design. Including "Wave Of The Future," "Outfield Power." And the very scarce, 100% foil "Hot Numbers." They're all hard to find. But worth searching for. **LIMITED PRODUCTION.** 1994 Flair Baseball Series I is a true limited edition set. But then again, the best investments are hard to find.

For
FLAIR.

FOR SERIOUS COLLECTORS.







AND AS JAMIE CLOSES THE DOOR IN HIS SUBCONSCIOUS, ANOTHER IS FORCED OPEN.

THE BARONIAL HOME OF THE BERKDOCK FAMILY.

A DESPERATE YOUNG MASTER JAMIE IS SEARCHING FRANTICALLY FOR HIS YOUNGER SIBLINGS.

HE HAS BEEN LEFT ALONE AND IN CHARGE--



HOW DO THEY DO IT? THEY'RE SO CLOSE... THEY THINK LIKE ONE... THEY ALWAYS HAVE EACH OTHER...

I'LL HAVE... ONLY MYSELF... AS USUAL.



THERE HE IS BETSY. WHAT SHALL WE DO?

MAYBE WE SHOULD LET HIM JOIN US. IF WE CONVINCE HIM HARD ENOUGH... MAYBE HE'LL HEAR US.



I DON'T BELIEVE IT! I'VE FINALLY FOUND YOU! I KNEW YOU WERE CLOSE BY.

THIS IS OUR SECRET HIDING PLACE.



WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US?

MET YOU REALLY ME TO?



FIN AFTERNOON TOGETHER PASSES SO QUICKLY...

BRIAN, BETSY, DON'T LEAVE ME. PROMISE TO WON'T YOU LEAVE ME.

OF COURSE, JAMIE... WE CAN PLAY TOGETHER FOREVER.

EVEN WHEN WE GROW UP WE CAN ALL REMEMBER THIS TIME WE SPENT... TOGETHER.

DEYLOCKE KNOWS THAT THIS IS THE LAST INCIDENT... AN ATTEMPT AT CHILDHOOD WHEN ALL WILL REMEMBER IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO GRANT.

CHILL with the HOT

MARVEL
COMICS

X-MEN

1 REACH INTO
THE FREEZER FOR
THE HOTTEST THING
AROUND!!

Tony's

WORLD
CAFÉ



2 DON'T GET LEFT OUT IN
THE COLD! PLAY THE X-MEN
"MISSING
MUTANT MYSTERY"
ON SPECIALLY MARKED



TONY'S PERSONAL PIZZA™
AND FRENCH BREAD
PIZZA PACKAGES.

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COOLEST COMIC!
THE MYSTERY IS SOLVED IN
AN EXCLUSIVE LIMITED
EDITION X-MEN COMIC! SEE
TONY'S PIZZA® AND
WORLD CAFÉ™ PACKAGES!
FOR DETAILS



4 READ
IT!!



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NOW--IN THE
PROTEUS ROOM...

...JAMIE STRIKES
OUT IN ONE LAST
DITCH EFFORT TO
MAINTAIN HIS
STATUS QUG.

JAMIE, JAMIE,
RELAX. WE ARE
HERE FOR YOU. CALM
DOWN. WE CAN BEA
FAMLY AGAIN.
YOU SAW HOW
WE GOTTED
IT TO BE!

I NEVER
KNEW HOW YOU
FELT... GIVE
US
CHANCE!

NO! NO!
NO! NO!
NO! NO!

HE'S REJECTING
US, FORCING
ME AWAY. TRYING
TO AVOID ANY
CONTACT. WE'RE
LOSING HIM.

JAMIE--
WE CAN--
CLOSE AGAIN
DON'T DO
THIS!

STOP PLAYING
WITH MY MIND?

IS THIS ALL
YOU UNDERSTAND,
JAMIE-- A BITT
BLOODY
VIOLENCE?

IS THIS HOW
YOU WANT
TO LIVE THE REST
OF YOUR
LIFE?

IS THIS WHAT
YOU WANT
A **SEXTUAGES**
EMBRACE
TO BE?

THEIR EYES MEET AND
FOR THE FIRST TIME
IN MANY YEARS, THEY
LOCK IN A LOOK THAT
SPRINGS REMINISCES AND
AGE-OLD HATREDS.

BRIAN AND JAMIE
BEGINNING EYE TO
EYE FOR THE FIRST
TIME IN DECADES.

BUT IS IT
ENOUGH?

MEIN GOTT--

IT LOOKS
LIKE I'VE MISSED
BUT I
THE FAMILY
REUNION!

LOOKS
LIKE I'D BETTER
TELEPORT JAMIE
TO THE MIDLAS...
AND QUICKLY.



ProFile: ANDY KUBERT

Artist Andy Kubert describes his work on the X-MEN as "the best job I ever had!" Here, Andy tells how he got the job, as well as what it's like to be part of a comic book drawing dynasty that includes his brother, Adam and his father, Joe!

Where and when were you born?

I was born in Boonton, NJ, on February 27, 1962.

How did you break into comics?

I started off as a letterer — my dad taught me how to do that. I got into the drawing part from attending my dad's school (the Joe Kubert School of Comic Art in Dover, NJ). Lettering got me into Marvel — I lettered the VOID INDIGO graphic novel, and the VOID INDIGO series, which lasted two issues!

How long did you attend the school?

Three years.

Did you do your homework every night?

I had no choice! (laughter.)

Did your brother, Adam, go to school with you?

Yeah, we went at the same time. Which one of you was the better student?

I was, of course!

How do you and Adam get along?

We get along good. Our studios are right next door to each other, and we're always going back and forth.

Did you always want to work in comics?

I had no idea what I wanted to do! I didn't start drawing until I was 20 years old! Originally I was just going to go to my dad's school for

a year. I figured I would get a job working for the school, not as a teacher, but maybe in the administrative department. I never thought I would draw for the school!

When did you graduate?
I finished school in '84. I began lettering while I was still in school. My dad was editing Sgt. Rock at the time, and he would give work to his second and third year students.

What was your first art job for Marvel?

I did a backup in SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN. Then I did a whole issue of SAVAGE SWORD. Then I went and did some DC stuff — I think it was Warlord. I used to remember the order I did stuff in — now it all blends together!

How did you get assigned to the X-MEN?

Jim Lee decided to quit. Bob Harris called me. It took me half a second to decide!

Who are your favorite members of the team?

Gambit and Colossus.

Had you always been an X-MEN fan?

No. My dad used to bring home comics when I was a kid, but they were just DC's. I never knew Marvel existed! It wasn't until I was going to my dad's school that I discovered the X-Men. I started collecting Marc Silvestri's issues — I'm a big fan of his work.

Do you have a mutant power?

Yeah, but you wouldn't want to print what it is!

Did you ever have a crush on any of the girls from the Brady Bunch?

Yeah — Alice the maid!

NEWSLINE

If you're in the New York area this week, check out the Marvel Mega-Tour at the Meadowlands Convention Center, in Secaucus, NJ! Participating area retailers include: Alternate Realities (914) 723-7950, A & S Comics (201) 896-0280, Comic Attitudes (908) 572-6930, Dream Factory (203) 849-8977, Heroes Outpost (908) 561-5511 and Starlog (201) 712-1414.

A reminder that upcoming stops on the Mega-Tour include the L. A. Hilton and Towers on August 27th, the Arlington Convention Center in Dallas on September 3, and McCormick Place in Chicago on September 24th. Marvel will be there — all that's missing is you!

HYPE BOX

CLAN DESTINE #1 written and drawn by the amazing Alan Davis — on sale now!



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■ **ALICE COOPER: LAST TEMPTATION OF ALICE #2 of 3:** The sinister curtain rises on act two! By Garmen/Zut!

■ **ALADDIN #1:** Your wish is our command, as Aladdin gets his own monthly book! By Nordin/God & Reed/Abricht

■ **AVENGERS #379:** It's hard-hitting heroics as Hera harasses Hercules! By Harris/Edg/Palmer!

■ **GENERATORS DOUBLE FEATURE #1:** Featuring the premiere of GIANT-MAN #1! By Perez/Moore/Dzon!

■ **BEAVIS & BUTT-HEAD #6:** The boys join the circus! Talk about your sideshowers! By Parket

■ **CLAN DESTINE #1:** From the people who brought you EXCALIBUR! By Davis/Farmer!

■ **CONAN THE ADVENTURER #5:** There once was a man-mountain from Khaz! By Thomas/Kayman!

■ **DOOM 2099 #22:** A mysterious woman from Doom's past returned! By Moore/Broderick/Nyberg!

■ **EXCALIBUR #62:** The countdown to Generation X continues! By Lobdell/Lashley/Candelario!

■ **GENERATION X COLLECTOR'S PREVIEW #1:** Here come the mutant slackers!

■ **GHOST RIDER 2099 #6:** GR's girlfriend is sick — and Alchemax has the cure! By Kaminski/Buckingham!

■ **GL JOE #153:** Meet the Battle 'Archie' Troop! Side-named: the BATT! By Fein & Quinones/Rosado/ Snider!

■ **INCREDIBLE HULK #422:** A Thor/Hulk comic like you've never seen before! By David/Frank/Smith!

■ **JUSTICE: FOUR BALANCE #2:** Everybody hates the Hate Monger! By Nicieza/Bradford/Lumet!

■ **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #166:** Rage goes on a date! Plus: Vengeance!

■ **MARVEL SUPER HEROES MEGASIZE #1:** Classic tales of Hulk, FF and more!

■ **MARVEL TALES #290:** Jameson hires X-Factor to hunt down Spidey! By DeFalco/edwards/Layton!

■ **MIDNIGHT SONS UNLIMITED #7:** It's swamp-erotic action with the Man-Thing! By Benson & Abnett!

■ **MORBIUS #26:** Breaking up is hard to do — especially when you're a vampire! By Trueman/Gilmore/ Bryant!

■ **NOVA #10:** Diamondhead! Computer! Rhino! And in this corner... Nova! By Mannar/ Siegbauer!

■ **PUNISHER ANNUAL #7:** European sight-seeing — Punisher-style! By Abnett & Lanning!

■ **PUNISHER #95:** Punisher and Grisham meet escape a deadly combat! By Abnett & Lanning/Tera!

■ **REN & STIMPY: MASTERS OF TIME & SPACE SPECIAL #1:** Choose your own edictic adventure! By Sicc/Kozsani!

■ **REN & STIMPY TPG: YOUR PAL:** Featuring Stimpie as the king of rock!

■ **ROCK'S MODERN LIFE #5:** Rock's in the doghouse with Earl the Tough Dog! By Lewandowski/ Auck/Fried!

■ **SABRETOOTH CLASSICS #6:**

Sabretooth starts a slaughter with the Marsuaders! By L. Simonson/ W. Simonson/Wiscard!

■ **SPIDER-MAN MAGAZINE #7:** Spidey and the Hulk battle the Juggernaut!

■ **SPIDER-MAN #51:** Spidey's alone fights alone! By Mackin/Lyle/ Hanna!

■ **TRANSFORMERS: GENERATION 2 #12:** Optimus Prime is consumed! Last issue! By Furman/Gailan & Senior/Arnsht!

■ **WARLOCK & THE INFINITY WATCH #33:** Count Abyss possesses the soul gem! By Arcudi/Oliffe!

■ **WHAT IF? #66:** What if Rogue possessed the power of Thor? By Furman/Royce/Georgiou!

■ **X-MEN #37:** The X-Men battle the next generation of mutants! By Nicieza/Kubert/Ryan!

■ **X-MEN 2099 #13:** In this issue, you'll get a hunka hunka Brimstone Love! By Moore/Linn/Sanders!

■ **X-MEN POSTER BOOK #3:** With an all-new cover by Richard Bennett! By Various!

LATER, WHEN FIERY EMOTIONS AND REOPENED SCARS HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THEIR PROPER PLACES...

I WISH THE NEWS WERE BETTER, BUT HE IS STILL IN A COMA... MY SENSORS DO, HOWEVER, INDICATE AN INCREASE IN BRAIN ACTIVITY.

I BELIEVE I'VE BEGUN TO MAKE SOME PROGRESS... BUT WE CANNOT KNOW MUCH MORE THAN THAT.

THIS LOOKS LIKE FAMILY BUSINESS TO ME. LET ME KNOW IF I CAN HELP IN ANY WAY, BETSY.

HE'S BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH PAIN... NEVER REALIZED THAT AS MUCH AS JAMIE WAS FIGHTING FOR... I THINK HE WAS FIGHTING HIMSELF AS WELL...

-- REACHING OUT TO US, FOR LOVE, FOR COMFORT, YET HOLDING ON TO WHAT HE KNEW-- THE CORRUPT, EVIL, DARKER SIDE OF HIM.

JAMIE'S UNCONSCIOUS MANIFESTATIONS-- HIS DIFFERENT HOSTILE PERSONAS AND PSYCHES WERE HIS WAY OF EXPRESSING EVERYTHING HE'D HAD INSIDE OF HIM FOR SO LONG.

MY PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU, BETSY.

WE HAVE TO HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE, BETSY! BUT THE FINAL BATTLE IS UP TO HIM... HE MUST FACE HIS OWN DEMONS!

CAN YOU FEEL IT-- AN INNER PEACE-- A CALMNESS THAT WASN'T THERE BEFORE?

I KNOW-- I FEEL IT TOO. IS IT NOT? I KNOW WE CHANGED THINGS-- WE HELPED HIM.

GOD HELP US IF WE DIDN'T. WHETHER YOU SAW WAS A SPIRIT OR NOT... I KNOW NOW I NEED MY BROTHER.

I NEED YOU BOTH.

HAVE A PLANE TO CATCH, BUT LET'S TRY TO STAY IN TOUCH... THIS TIME, THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU...

AND SOMEWHERE IN HIS MOST TRUSTED REALITY...

...JAMIE BRADDOCK IS PLAYING IN THEIR SECRET HIDE-OUT PLACE-- AND IN HIS MIND HE IS HAPPY.

NEVER THE END!

HER NAME IS
AMANDA SEFTON.

AND THOUGH
HER EXPERIENCES
AS A SORCERESS HAVE
PREPARED HER FOR ALL
SORTS OF HORRORS--

--SHE NEVER
EXPECTED TO
ENDURE THIS--

--TRANSPATIAL
AND SENSORY
DISPLACEMENT
OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS--

--"SPOOLING"--

--LITERALLY BEING
RIPPED TO SHREDS
AND THEN REFORMED
OVER AND OVER
AND OVER.

THE PAIN IS
SO BEYOND
DESCRIPTION.

AND IN THE FEW
SECONDS OF CLARITY
BETWEEN SPOOLING
CYCLES, SHE
KNOWS HOW
THIS HAPPENED.

BUT SHE CAN'T
REMEMBER.

THERE IS ONLY
THE PAIN, MEMORY OF
A WOMAN'S VOICE
SCREAMING FOR HELP.

AND THEN SHE IS
THE ONE SCREAMING--

"--DEAR GOD,
NOT AGAIN!"

THEN, THERE IS
JUST THE PAIN--
AS THE
BEGINNING ANEW--

BLACK QUEEN RISING

ERIC FEIN • DARRICK GROSS
WRITER PENCILER
CANDELARIO ALSTIV WACKER ANDERSON
INKER
JANICE CHIANG • MONICA BENNETT
LETTERER COLORIST
SUEANNE FENBY • BOB SPRAS
EDITOR GROUP EDITOR
TOM DE FALCO • EDITOR IN CHIEF

WACKER



---ONLY TO END
AS QUICKLY
AS IT BEGAN.

WHA--?!



I'M BACK ON
THE PLANE.

THAT WAS
A NIGHTMARE!

--BUT, I WASN'T
SLEEPING. I DON'T
THINK I WAS...

IT WAS SO
REAL, SURPRISED
I DIDN'T SCREAM.



I'M A FLIGHT
ATTENDANT-- IT'S
MY JOB TO CARE
FOR
THE PASSENGERS--

--NOT SCARE
THEM
TO DEATH.



WELL, WHATEVER
IT WAS, IT'S OVER
NOW. TIME TO CHECK ON
FIRST CLASS.



OKAY, NOW
I'M SCARED.

--MY WRIST!
IT'S SCARRED
LIKE THE WOUNDS
I HAD IN
MY DREAM.



OH MY GOD--
WE'RE IN
A NOSE DIVE!

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I AM *SELENE*. I AM THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR *SAVING* YOU YOUR NIGHTMARE...

...AND FOR YOUR PREDICAMENT.

NO! WHO ARE YOU?

WHY? WHAT HAVE I EVER DONE TO YOU? THESE PEOPLE ARE INNOCENT.

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU HAVE *DOVE*. IT'S WHAT YOU CAN *DO* FOR ME NOW.

I NEED YOU TO COME TO ME. THE REASONING WILL BE MADE WHEN YOU ARRIVE.



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

DON'T BE STUPID. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A *WIFE* CRASH YOUR PLANE.

DECIDE NOW, WHILE YOU STILL HAVE CHOICE IN THE MATTER.

OKAY. I'LL COME. NOW *SEIZURE* CONTROL OF THE PLANE TO THE CASH!!



THE QUICK CHANGE IN UNIFORM SIGNIFYING A NEW ROLE WITH A MULTITUDE OF UNKNOWN RISKS.

ONE QUICK TELEPORTATIONAL SPELL AND THE SORCERESS SUPREME IS ON THE GROUNDS OF A BEWILDERING DESERTED MANSION.

I WISH I HAD A CHANCE TO CONTACT *OWEN*.



... TOO LATE FOR THAT...

... BUT, I HAVE BEEN IN *DOUGH* BEFORE.

AND I'LL GET THROUGH *THIS*...



... WHATEVER *THIS* IS...

FINANDA MAKES HER WAY
"INTO THE AWE-SOME
DARKEST DEPTHS--"

--THE SPOOLING CHAMBER,
WHERE FLESH IS TORN
APART AND REBUILT IN A
NEVER-ENDING CYCLE--

THIS IS JUST
LIKE
MY NIGHTMARE.

YES, I
SENT YOU THAT
"MESSAGE" SO YOU'D
UNDERSTAND WHAT
I'M EXPERIENCING
AND AGREE TO
HELP ME.

I CAN'T TAKE
MUCH MORE
OF THIS, AND
NOW I WON'T
HAVE TO.

WHAT ABOUT
THE PLANET?

I'M SURE
THAT WAS QUITE
A GOOD IDEA FOR YOU,
BUT THE PLANE WAS--
NEVER IN ANY REAL
DANGER. I JUST
NEEDED TO GET
YOUR FULL ATTENTION--
AND THEN GET
YOU HERE.



ISN'T IT PART OF
XAVIER'S PRECIOUS
CREDO TO HELP TO
ANYONE WHO ASKS
FOR IT?

SHE'S GOT ME
TRAPPED-- AND I'LL BE
SEEKING
EVERY DANGEROUS
WOMAN I CAN FIND
HER AND I GO AGAINST
EVERYTHING EXCALIBUR
STANDS FOR.

...I'VE HEARD
ABOUT
SELENE
FROM
KURT.

DESPITE
ALL SHE
DOES, DOES SHE
DESERVE
THIS?

AND WHO AM
I TO STAND IN
JUDGMENT
OF HER?



MAYBE THERE
IS A WAY TO TURN
THE MACHINE OFF
WITHOUT
RELEASING HER--

--I COULD CONTACT
THE X-MEN AND
THEY COULD
FIGURE OUT WHAT
TO DO WITH HER.



THAT'S IT,
YOU FOOL. DEACTIVATE
THE CHAMBER--

--FREE ME,
SO I CAN "REVEAL"
YOU IN FULL?

I CAN BARELY MAKE
HEADS OR TAILS
OUT OF THESE
CONTROLS...



...I THINK
THIS SHOULD
DO IT.



YES, YOU'VE
DONE IT.
THE CYCLE
IS SLOWING
DOWN!



SHE'S DISTRACTED.
NOW IS MY TIME
TO STRIKE.



BUT, I'M NOT
GOING TO LET
YOU DIVERT
MY PLANS.

YOU'LL
DO JUST
AS NICELY AS
YOUR LADY
FRIEND
WOULD
HAVE...

-- TAKING
MY PLACE IN
THE SPOOKING
CHAMBER!

Ugh!



AMANDA!
WATCH OUT!

HUH?
KURT!

LONG TIME,
NO SEE,
NIGHTCRAWLER.



CLICK





ARGH!
THE P-PAIN--
TOO MUCH--

STOP
IT, YOU'RE
KILLING
HIM!

SORRY, I
CAN'T DO THAT
YOU SEE THERE IS
NO WAY TO
SHUTDOWN
THE CHAMBER.

ONCE IT'S
BEE-ACTIVATED,
THERE MUST ALWAYS
BE SOMEONE IN
THE CHAMBER, IF NOT
IT WILL SELF DESTRUCT,
DESTROYING
THE MANSION
AS WELL.

YOU WERE
GOING TO BE
MY FIRST "KNIGHT"
BUT YOUR "KNIGHT IN
SHINING ARMOR"
WILL GO JUST
AS WELL.

YOU'VE
MESS'ED WITH
ME ONE TIME
TOO MANY,
SELENE.

TAKE
YOUR BEST SHOT,
BLONDIE, WE BOTH
KNOW THERE
NO MATCH
FOR ME!



EVEN THOUGH
I'M WEAK
FROM THE
SPOOLING--
--I'M STILL
GREAT
TO YOU!

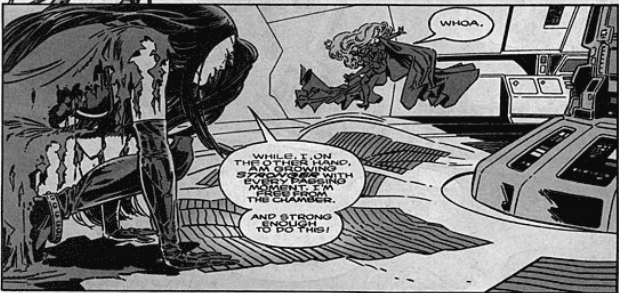
SHE'S
ANIMATED
THESE STEEL COILS--
CUTTING OFF
MY AIR.



GOT TO USE
MY MAGIC
BOLTS TO
FIGHT BACK.

GIVE IT UP, SEFTON.
HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED
THIS PLACE HAS
BUILT-IN POWER
DAMPENERS.

I'VE ADJUSTED
MY ABILITIES.
YOUR MAGIC
IS WEAK--
UNDEFENDABLE
AT BEST.



WHOA.

WHILE, I, ON
THE OTHER HAND,
AM GROWING
STRONGER WITH
EVERY PASSING
MOMENT. I'M
FREE FROM
THE CHAMBER.

AND STRONG
ENOUGH
TO DO THIS!



I NOT WILL
YOU... BEAT...
ME!

Ugh!



YOU
IMPUDENT
WHELP, IT'S
TIME YOU FELT
MY FULL
POWER!



NOW, WHO'S
GONNA
WHIP WHO,
BABYFACE?



I THINK
MY RIBS ARE
BROKEN - I CAN'T
MOVE, GOT TO...
GET OUT FROM...
UNDER.

AMANDA!
HELP ME!

AH! I
CAN'T LET HIM
DOWN, I'VE GOT
TO FIGHT
THE PAIN--

--PUSH IT AND
THE RIBS
OFF OF ME.
HIS SACRIFICE
FOR ME
WILL NOT
BE WORTH
IT.

FINALLY CLEARING
HER MIND OF ALL
BUT HER ONE
OBJECTIVE--

--AMANDA
REES
HERSELF!

THIS
CAN'T
BE!
WHERE IS THIS
STRENGTH
COMING
FROM?



IT CAN BE
ANYT
/S, WITCH!

YOU MIGHT
HAVE BEATEN
ME, BUT YOU MADE
A MISTAKE GOING
AFTER KURT.

AND IT'S
TIME YOU
PAID
FOR IT.

THE FINAL BLAST COMES FROM
DEEP WITHIN AMANDA SESTON.
FOR A PLACE SHE HAS RARELY
TRUSTED AND ALWAYS KEPT
WELL GUARDED--

--HER HEART.

SMASH

BASH

CRASH



THAT
TAKES
CARE OF
SELENE.

HANG ON, KURT. I'LL GET
YOU OUT, BUT
YOU'RE GOING TO
HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL
THE SMOOKING
GELS IS
COMPLETE.

OTHERWISE
YOU'LL WIND
UP LIKE SELENE,
HORRIBLY
WOUNDED... OR
WORSE...

I'M... NOT
GOING TO
MAKE IT.

YES, YOU
WILL. YOU'VE
BEEN IN WORSE
PLACES THAN
THIS, KURT.

JUST FOCUS
YOURSELF
BEYOND
THE PAIN.

BLOCK
IT OUT.

C-CAN'T
DO IT.

YOU HAVE
NO CHOICE. DO
IT... FOR ME!

OKAY.



THAT'S IT, NOW
PULL MY HAND
AND IN ANOTHER
SECOND
YOU'LL BE--

--OUT
OF
THERE!

MEIN
GOTT!



YOU DID
IT, AMANDA.
YOU SAVED
MY LIFE.



SILLY, ELF.
DID YOU
THINK I'D
LEAVE YOU
HERE?

NO, NEVER.
I--UH, OH, WHAT
IS THAT-- THE SELF
DESTRUCT--
IT'S BEEN
ACTIVATED!

RUMBLE



THE PLACE IS
GONNA GET TO
GET OUT
OF HERE!

HANG
ON!



BAMF!



THIS
ISN'T
GOOD.

I THINK WE
HAVE A
SLIGHT
PROBLEM. IT'S
THE POWER
DAMPENER.



WHAT IF WE'RE
TOO WEAK TO
TELEPORT
OUT OF HERE?

YOU'VE GOT
TO TRY A
TELEPORTATION
SPOT --
WITHOUT ME.
I'M JUST
HOLDING YOU
BACK.

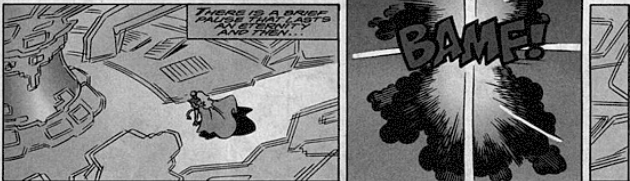
DON'T BE
AN IDIOT -- AND
I MEAN THAT IN
THE NICEST WAY.
OF COURSE...



WE'VE
BOTH GOT TO
CONCENTRATE.
FOCUS OUR
RESOURCES.



WELL, IF
WE'RE GOING
TO DO IT,
IT HAS TO BE
NOW, 'CAUSE
THIS PLACE IS
GOING TO GO
ANY SECOND.



THERE IS A BRIEF
PAUSE THAT LASTS
A FEW SECONDS
AND THEN...

BAM!

AN EXPLOSION
OF SUCH POWER IT
ENIGMATIZES
THE MANSION--

--RAZING IT TO
THE GROUND--

--AND PURGING IT
OF ITS EVIL SECRETS
AND SABBATH
CHAMBERS, FOREVER.

KA-BOOM!





WHEW.
THAT WAS
CLOSE, EH?

DO YOU THINK
SELENE GOT
CAUGHT IN
THE EXPLOSION?

I DON'T KNOW,
BUT YOU DID
THE BEST YOU
COULD.

COME ON,
LET'S GET TO
A PHONE AND CALL
THE X-MEN. THIS IS
THEIR HOME TURF.



I GUESS
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

YOU SHOULD
BE PROUD OF
YOURSELF. YOU
FACED DOWN AN
A-LIST TYPE
BADDIE.

YOU ARE ONE
VERY TOUGH WOMAN.
PROMISE ME THAT
YOU WON'T EVER
FORGET THAT, OKAY?

I PROMISE.



BY THE WAY,
HOW DID YOU
KNOW WHERE
I WAS?

I WAS WAITING
FOR YOU AT
THE AIRPORT. I
WANTED TO
WELCOME YOU.
I HAD SOMETHING
TO TELL YOU.



WHEN
THE PLANE LANDED,
THE CREW TOLD
ME WHAT
HAPPENED.

ONCE I GOT
THE COORDINATES
FROM THEM, I
STARTED SEARCHING.
I HAD TO
FIND YOU.



I...HAD TO.

SO, KURT,
WHAT WAS IT
YOU WANTED TO
TELL ME — OR DO
I GET TO
GUESS...?



HER NAME
IS SILENE...

THE BLACK QUEEN.

IN ADDITION TO
SUBJECTING OTHERS
TO HER OWN EVIL WHIMS,
SHE HAS KNOWN
MANY HORRORS...

-- BUT SHE HAS NEVER
KNOWN THE FEAR
THAT WEES SHE
WITHIN HER NOW.

A FEAR SO DEEP,
IT'S BEYOND
DESCRIPTION.

SHE KNOWS
HOW THE
HAPPENED
AND THAT
KNOWLEDGE
SEEMS TO
MAKE IT
ALL WORSE.

THE WOUNDS
AREN'T
HEALING.

SHE LEFT THE CHAMBER
TOO SOON BEFORE SHE
COULD BE
"REASSEMBLED" FULLY.

SHE SCREAMS IN AGONY,
AND NO ONE HEARS, SAVE
FOR THE TREES...

...AND THE WOLVES
IN THE NIGHT.

THE END?





"WISH I COULD WRITE MORE, BUT I'M LATE FOR A CHARITY LUNCHEON. TAKE CARE AND I'LL TRY TO DROP YOU A LINE OR TWO SOON."

"IF YOUR FATHER THINKS TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU, HAVE HIM CALL ME; I MUST SPEAK WITH HIM. LOVE, MOM."

WONDERFUL.

MAIL CALL TURNS OUT TO BE MY ~~OWN~~ HAND-MADE-DOING COMING BACK TO ME

THAT'S NOT EXACTLY WHAT I WAS HOPING FOR.

A
Change
of
Worlds





WELL, LET'S FIRE
UP OLE SPARKY HERE
AND SEE WHAT'S ON THESE
DISCS-- PROVIDED THEY'RE
NOT RIDDLED WITH A
VIRUS OR DON'T ACCI-
DENTLY GET MAGNET-
IZED ENROUTE.

I STILL
DON'T BELIEVE SHE
SHIPPED THEM LOOSE
IN A PLASTIC BAGGIE
LOOKHEAD. SHE NEVER
CARED ABOUT ANY
STUFF.



CROSS
YOUR FINGERS
AND HOPE THE
SYSTEM DOESN'T
CRASH.



WHAT HAVE
WE HERE?



MOM WAS
RIGHT; THIS
STUFF IS
FROM
XAVIER'S--

Exc.

IF ANYONE ELSE SHOULD EVER READ THESE DISCS, I HOPE IT'S YOU, KITTY. YOU'VE KNOWN ME THE LONGEST, YOU'RE THE ONE I SHARED MY HOPES AND DREAMS WITH. AFTER I FOUND OUT I WAS A MUTANT, YOU UNDERSTOOD MY LONGING TO BELONG, MAKE FRIENDS, FIT IN AGAIN. BUT I DON'T THINK EVEN YOU UNDERSTOOD HOW...INADEQUATE I FELT. I WAS A MEMBER OF THE NEW MUTANTS AND MY MUTANT POWER OF "SPEAKING IN TONGUES" DIDN'T EXACTLY MAKE ME "MOST VALUABLE PLAYER" ON THE TEAM. I KEPT HOW I FELT LOOKED AWAY-- BUT I DON'T NEED TO DO THAT ANYMORE. SOMETHING HAPPENED TODAY THAT HAS CHANGED MY LIFE FOREVER.

WHEN WE WERE IN ASGARD, I MERGED WITH WARLOCK. I SAW HIM, THE BETTER HALF OF THE TEAM SUPREME, DYING, NEEDING "FOOD" TO SURVIVE--AND MY GUTS TWISTED UP WITH FEAR. I WANTED TO HELP HIM--BUT I WAS AFRAID IT WOULD BE PAINFUL. I NEVER HAVE BEEN MUCH ON PAIN... BUT I COULDN'T LET HIM DIE. HERE WAS A CHANCE FOR ME TO REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE. SO I "SOUL-MERGED" WITH WARLOCK--I GAVE HIM SOME OF MY

LIFE-FORCE ENERGY AND IN RETURN, I WAS ABLE TO SEE THROUGH HIS EYES--ALL THE AURAS THAT EVERY LIVING THING RADIATES. IT WAS SO BEAUTIFUL.

AS LONG AS I LIVE I'LL NEVER FORGET THE WAY IT FELT TO BE *INSIDE* SOMEONE ELSE'S MIND. I UNDERSTAND A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT WHAT IT MUST BE LIKE TO BE PROFESSOR XAVIER. I NEVER REALIZED WHAT INCREDIBLE POWER HE WIELDS. TO ACTUALLY SEE WHAT ANOTHER BEING IS SEEING GOES SO FAR BEYOND SIMPLE UNDERSTANDING, BEYOND TRANSLATION.

WHEN WARLOCK BECAME MY BODY ARMOR, I FELT INVINCIBLE. AFTER I MERGED WITH HIS MIND, I REALIZED HOW PRECIOUS EACH LIFE IS, AND HOW FRAGILE. I KNOW NOW, THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS INVINCIBILITY.

Do you wish to
execute
RANDOM SCAN?
☐ yes<<< ☐ no



We just returned from Asgard. If I had known who was going to be waiting for us when we got back, I would have stayed in Harald Einarson's hall and remained his serving drudge. Professor Xavier appointed Magneto as our teacher! Magneto leading the New Mutants—it's inconceivable!

Magneto's attitude towards me has been awful—he *forbade* me to participate in *any* training exercises in the Danger Room! "The exercise is to measure physical abilities. Since your linguistic talent is mental, there's no need for you to participate." Those were his exact words. I was so angry—I can't remember ever feeling that mad in my life. I wanted Wolverine's claws so I could rip out Magneto's throat! I wanted to blast him like Cyclops! I wanted to explode in molten rage like Magma! Instead I blew my top up in the control booth. I *know* my power isn't physical. No one needs to remind me I'm our weak link. Why can't Magneto *see* that that's

exactly why I need to work out with the team. How am I going to pull my own weight if no one gives me the opportunity to learn how?

It's so ironic—Professor X encouraged me to train and experience combat situations in the Danger Room, while Magneto wants to shield me from even the slightest possibility of any physical danger.

Magneto says that the needs of the team outweigh any individual consideration. I know the Professor would disagree.

I'm determined to prove Magneto wrong about me. I'm going to prove to *everyone* that Doug Ramsay isn't useless. Warlock and I

Do you wish to
continue?
yes no



"All life—every moment—is a classroom, for those willing to learn. The key is within your grasp, Douglas. Be calm, as I taught you—have confidence in your abilities, and your own courage—and you will find it." Professor Xavier said those words to me—every word—and I will never forget them.

I was scared spitless. It looked like all of us were going to die fighting a crazed techno-organic monster! We were up against Magus—Warlock's demented father. This was the battle royale—time was running out for the whole team. I didn't know what to do. I was definitely in over my head. Then the Professor said those words to me. I wanted him to save the day for us—but he wouldn't. Then I realized that he wouldn't just leave us. Somehow in the middle of my blind panic, I deciphered what he was telling me. Maybe it was my mutant talent kicking in; maybe it was his serene tone of voice at such a desperate moment. Whatever it was, I understood what he meant—the answer was within me.



I realized that all life is based on genetic codes. Magus/Warlock--father/son--there had to be shared DNA between them! Merging with Warlock meant I could decipher and rearrange Magus's genetic encoding any way I wanted. I regressed Magus back to infancy. I did that. I slew the monster. Me--Doug Ramsay.

Today, I earned the right to be called a hero.

Today, soul-merged with Warlock, united with him in a death duel against his own father, it was my knowledge combined with Warlock's powers that stopped Magus.

Today, we claimed our courage and became partners, comrades, amigos.

Today, Cypher is no longer just a cipher.

Do you wish to
continue?
yes no

Warlock's disappeared.

I've heard about cops who work together for a long time. A bond forms between them, a fusion of instinct and experience. The result is a dynamic that is greater than the sum of the parts. Subtract one person from the equation and you end up with something less than zero. I've lost my partner, and I don't know what to do about it. I *thought* I was handling things pretty well.

Then the nightmares came, unpacked their trunk, and moved in. 32 variations on the same theme: I am permanently transmuted into organic circuitry, unable to control the virus. I

infect my teammates; I infect the world. My technological Midas Touch turns me into a pariah, an outcast.

Bad as they've been, the absolute worst dream was when Warlock became the Magus and killed me. I die at the hands of my friend. My partner betrays me.

Each night, I wake up screaming, drenched in sweat, afraid I'm losing my mind. I feel so powerless. Without Warlock, I'm afraid. I am just a cipher.

I'm not sure what I'm most afraid of—what I will become, what I *have* become—or what I won't become.

Do you wish to
continue?
yes no



A FEW
MINUTES
LATER...

I'VE GOT TO FIND
DOUGLOCK!

I BELIEVE HE
IS UPSTAIRS IN
THE LIBRARY--

KATZEN ?
WHAT'S WRONG?

PLEASE, KURT
LEAVE ME ALONE!

NO KITTY--I
WILL NOT LEAVE YOU
ALONE. NOT WHEN SOME-
THING HAS UPSET YOU SO
MUCH.

THIS TIME, I'LL
BE YOUR SHADOW TILL
I KNOW HOW I CAN HELP
YOU.

PHASING UP THROUGH
THE FLOOR, SHADOWCAT
FINDS HER TARGET.

HELLO, KITTY.
DO YOU WISH
TO USE THIS
COMPUTER ?

YOU'RE THE ONE
I'VE BEEN LOOKING
FOR!



SHE'S MISSED HIM FOR SO LONG. FINALLY, SHE THINKS SOMEONE SHE'LL BE COMING BACK TO HER.





THESE DISCS PERTAIN TO THE DECEASED HUMAN BEING KNOWN AS DOUGLAS RAMSEY. THAT IS NOT WHO I AM. I AM... DOUBLOCK.

IF YOU ARE ASKING ME TO BE WHO YOU WANT ME TO BE-- I CANNOT DO THAT. I AM SORRY I CANNOT HELP YOU, SHADOWCAT.



"-- I HAVE TO DOWNLOAD MY RESEARCH IN MORRIS LAB."



AS ONE LEAVES, A SILENT OBSERVER STEPS FROM THE SHADOWS OF THE OLD LIBRARY.

OH MY.

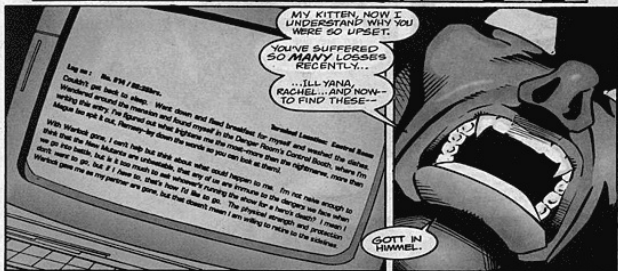


WHO-- WHO'S THERE?

IF THAT'S YOU, FUZZY ELF, GO AWAY.



NOT THIS TIME AFTERNOON. I-- SAW WHAT HAPPENED. I--



Log on: No. 074 / 06:38hrs.

Terminal Location: Control Room

Couldn't get back to sleep. Went down and fixed breakfast for myself and washed the dishes. Wandered around the mansion and found myself in the Danger Room's Control Booth, where I'm writing this entry. I've figured out what frightens me the most—more than the nightmares, more than Magus (so spit it out, Ramsey—lay down the words so you can look at them).

With Warlock gone, I can't help but think about what could happen to me. I'm not naive enough to think that the New Mutants are unbeatable, that any of us are immune to the dangers we face when we go into battle, but is it too much to ask whoever's running the show for a hero's death? I mean I don't want to go, but if I have to, that's how I'd like to go. The physical strength and protection Warlock gave me as my partner are gone, but that doesn't mean I am willing to retire to the sidelines.

I know there's a place for me alongside my teammates. If they need me, I'll be there. If necessary, I'll lay down my life for them.

Before Dani had ever even heard of the New Mutants, her grandfather told her about brave warriors being granted "good medicine deaths." I understand what he meant by that, now.

Our own wiseman, the Professor, made us start reading Shakespeare. In one of his plays he wrote, "If it be now, 'tis not to come; if it be not to come, it will be now; if it be not now, yet it will come—the readiness is all."

The readiness is all...

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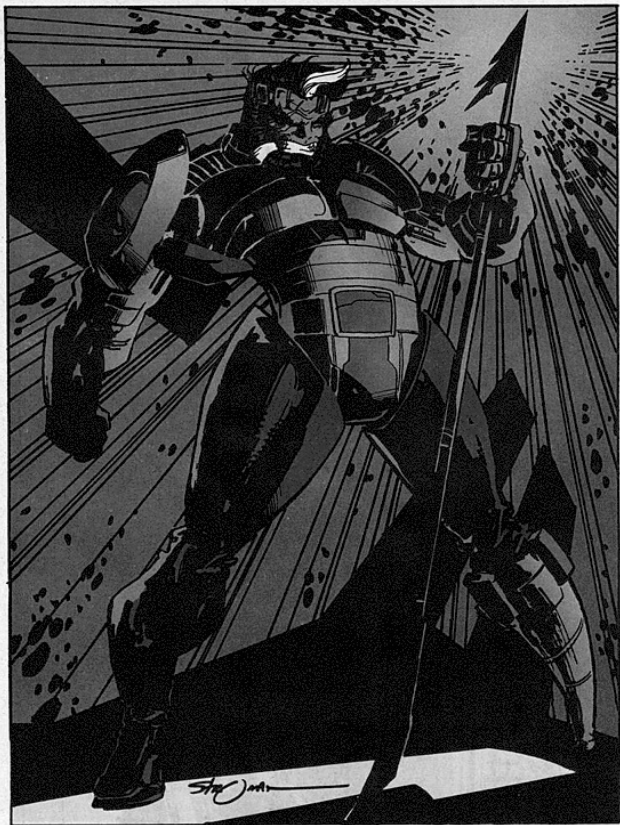
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yes

no

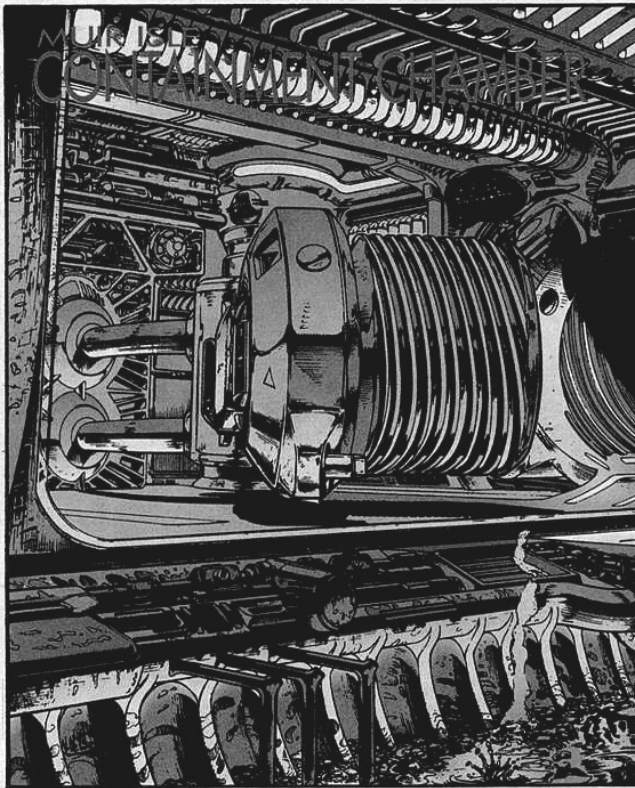


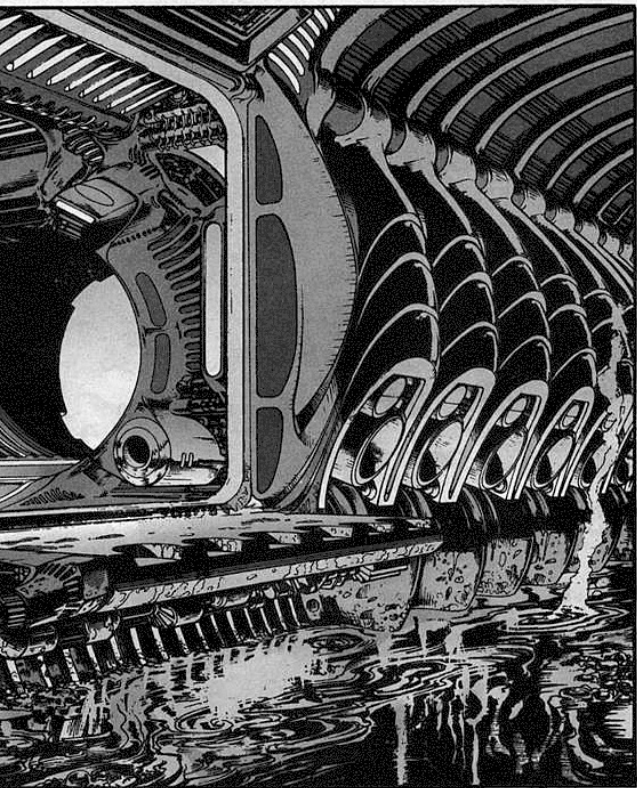






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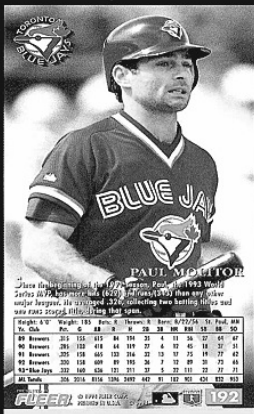
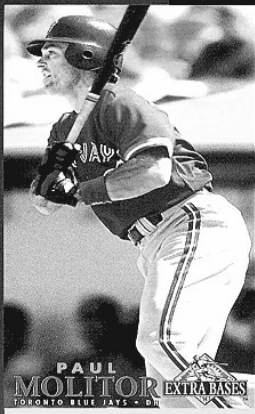
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